MR. HENDERSON ON SUFFRAGE AND LABOUR

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

VOL. IX., No. 459.] FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1918. [PRICE 1D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Women and the Labour Party. By the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson	527
Overstaffed Offices. By Miss Ruth Young	528
The New Education Bill	528
Women and the Parties	530
The Reform of Our Poor Law	531
Correspondence: Women in the Church, &c.	534

[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The House of Lords and Proportional Representation.

On January 22nd, the House of Lords, by 132 votes to 42, decided to re-insert Proportional Representation in the Representation of the People Bill. The decision was taken on an amendment moved by Lord Selborne on January 21st. Among the supporters of Proportional Representation in the two days' debate were Earl Grey, Lord Burnham, and Lord Courtney, who has been a life-long supporter of the principle. It was opposed by Lord Harcourt and Lord Crewe; and Lord Curzon, though professing some inclination for a measure of Proportional Representation opposed the present considerable alteration in the Bill on much the same grounds as those on which he had opposed the excision of Women's Suffrage. The Government, however, left the amendment to an open vote of the House, and their lordships accepted by three to one the principle which the Commons had rejected three times. According to *The Times*, it is likely that at this stage the Government will abandon their attitude of "armed neutrality," and advise the Commons to disagree with the Lords, in order to secure the passage of the Reform Bill in the few remaining days of the present session. Should they not do so, the session will have to be prolonged, and delay, perhaps considerable delay, is inevitable. In these circumstances it is difficult for Suffragists to regard Proportional Representation with an impartial mind!

The Vote for Peeresses.

On January 17th, the House of Lords decided that "any incapacity of a peer to vote at any election, arising from his status as a peer, should not extend to peeresses in their own right." To give a peeress the right of voting for a member of the House of Commons would no doubt seem a lesser evil to many peers than to let her sit in the Upper House.

Registration of Women.

On January 22nd, the new National Registration Bill came up for consideration in the House of Commons. An amendment was proposed by Major Newman necessitating the registration of girls, as well as boys, who were not fifteen when the original act of 1915 was passed. Mr. H. L. Fisher spoke against the amendment on behalf of the Government, explaining that the amended register was only to be used for the registration of males at present, and could, if need be, be applied afterwards to females by an Order in Council. The amendment was therefore rejected.

Later, Mr. Whitehouse moved an amendment to Clause 7 of the Bill, which permits an Order in Council to be made making the Bill applicable to women. His amendment proposed to remove from the police, if this Order in Council were made, the power of demanding certificates of registration from women and girls. Mr. Fisher promised to introduce an amendment to this effect on Report stage, and Mr. Whitehouse's amendment was therefore withdrawn.

The Labour Party in Conference.

As we go to press, the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Labour Party is being held in the Albert Hall, Nottingham. Our readers will remember that important amendments to the Party Constitution have been drafted, with a view to giving women a much greater measure of representation both upon the Executive Committee and on local committees. These are explained by Mr. Arthur Henderson in an article on page 527.

Various important questions are being discussed at the Conference, many of which are introduced on the initiative of women. The Women's Labour League demands a Ministry of Health, based upon Public Health Services, and entirely dissociated from any Poor Law taint, and adds to a resolution urging the Government to compel Local Authorities to prepare schemes of Housing and Town Planning, a demand that, in preparing all such schemes, working women shall be consulted. It also asks for adequate Mothers' Pensions for all widows with children or mothers whose family bread-winner has become incapacitated.

Under the heading, "Restoration of Trade Union Conditions," the Amalgamated Society of Engineers puts forward a resolution that the suspension of trade union customs shall be limited absolutely to the war period; and another "that the existing Wages Order regulating the employment of semi-skilled, unskilled, and female workers, shall remain in force as minima for at least a full year after the suspension of trade union customs has come to an end." This seems to show that the Society recognises that women's labour in certain branches of industry hitherto monopolised by men has come to stay, and does not regard the absolute barring out of women from those forms of work as one of the trade union customs that are to be restored.

Progress in the Organisation of Women Workers.

The Women's Labour League held a Conference on Monday and Tuesday. It passed resolutions with regard to the food supply, and elaborated the resolution on the Ministry of Health down in its name for discussion at the general meeting.

As a result of the scheme of reorganisation that has been drawn up, the Women's Labour League will, if the recommendations are accepted, be absorbed in the Labour Party. We understand that the Executive have provisionally appointed Dr. Marion Phillips, General Secretary of the League, as a full-time officer, to give special care and attention to the needs of women within the organisation.

For the first time in the history of the party there are two women candidates for election to the National Executive of the Labour Party, Miss Mary Macarthur and Dr. Marion Phillips. This year, too, there will be a great addition to the usual number of women delegates to the Labour Party's Conference. The National Federation of Women Workers, which appears for the first time as a result of its recent political ballot, is sending twenty representatives. The federation has progressed very rapidly since the beginning of the war, its income for the month of December, 1917, being equal to that for the whole of the year 1914.

"May WE have Huts, too?"

Our thanks are due

to the readers of "The Common Cause" for the magnificent way in which they are responding to our appeal for the "Common Cause HUT No. 3." Already the sum of **£206** has been subscribed, leaving **£544** still to come to complete the £750 required.

Time is pressing, however, and we urge all who have not already given, to send in their donations **at once.**

The Extraordinary Success of the "COMMON CAUSE" Huts No. 1 and 2 has encouraged the Editor to appeal to the readers of this journal for money to provide and maintain another hut, which is now urgently needed on SALISBURY PLAIN, for the use of 200—300 W.A.A.C. girls, working in two special branches of the service. This hut, which is to be known as

The "Common Cause" HUT No. 3

must be erected within a month from now.

It will contain RECREATION ROOM, LIGHT CANTEEN, and sleeping accommodation for two permanent Y.W.C.A. workers.

The "Common Cause" Hut No. 1 is doing a wonderful work at **COVENTRY**. It now has **OVER 1,100 MEMBERS** and is the largest and best equipped **Y.W.C.A.** hut ever erected.

The "Common Cause" Hut No. 2 in **FRANCE** is the largest **Y.W.C.A.** hut on the Western Front. Although only recently provided, it is crowded every day, and is a perfect boon to the girls.

Please Send YOUR "BIT" TO-DAY!

Remember: This "named" Hut will be a perpetual reminder to our girls of our love and sympathy, and will incidentally give publicity to the great cause which our journal represents.

Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be addressed to the Editor of the "Common Cause," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Y.W.C.A. Subscription Form.

Date _____

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

I enclose £ as my subscription to "THE COMMON CAUSE HUT, No. 3."

Name _____

Address _____

SUPPORT OUR APPEALS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when sending donations.

Women in the Labour Party.

BY THE RT. HON. ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P.

The democratic movement in this country, and in every other country in an almost equal degree, has won a tremendous victory by the breaking-down of the last barrier to the passage on to the Statute Book of the largest measure of electoral reform ever presented to Parliament. We owe it mainly to the earnest efforts of the women who have striven so courageously against the obstinate prejudices and reactionary influences which were opposed to a redistribution of political power. For more than a generation the Suffragist women have carried on a persistent agitation for the extension of the franchise with wonderful skill and resolution. The agitation has had its unfortunate features, but we can forget the mistaken tactics of some supporters of the cause, the timidities of others, and the stupidities of its foes in the triumphant vindication, after many years, of a democratic idea which was essentially just and right, despite the exaggerated emphasis given to some aspects of the propaganda. To the Labour Party, which has from its earliest beginning stood pledged to the principle of adult suffrage, the passage of the Bill signalises only a partial acceptance of the principle which it has advocated as the basis of any measure of electoral reform. Like the bulk of the Suffragist women, the party accepts the measure as an instalment of the full claim to equality of political rights as between men and women. With the women, we shall work for an extension of the measure, until all women are enfranchised on the same terms as men. Our congratulations to the women who did so much to secure this great victory for democracy are cordial and sincere, and are not dictated by a lively sense of favours to come.

What relationships will the six million women enfranchised by the Representation of the People Bill sustain to the political parties which have hitherto monopolised the direction and control of public affairs? Will the women act as a conservative or as a revolutionary force in politics? Will they seek to organise themselves separately, in an independent women's party? What will be the attitude of the existing parties towards the enfranchised women? These are questions which cannot be summarily answered. They exercise the minds of every politician and statesman concerned with the organisation of political opinion. Experience hardly supplies any guidance on the subject, for it is not so much the mere fact of enfranchisement as the psychology of those who are enfranchised which will determine the conditions upon which this great army of new electors will use their votes. We know that the enfranchised women are far better educated politically than were the workmen in the boroughs in 1867, or even the middle-class householders in 1832; but we do not really know how the bulk of the women stand affected towards the existing parties; and it may be doubted whether they know themselves.

Speculation of this kind is unprofitable. The utmost that can be done by those of us who are concerned with the mobilisation of the electorate in support of well-defined policies and causes is to give the women voters full information regarding our aims and our methods of political organisation, and to explain to them the nature of the opportunity for effective work offered to them in the party. A further obligation arising out of the enfranchisement of great masses of citizens which the Labour Party, at any rate, is not disposed to evade, is the adaptation of the party's machinery in order to meet their legitimate claim to a share in the administration of the party's affairs, and a voice and vote in the formulation of its programme. This last is one of the chief considerations we have borne in mind in revising the constitution of the Labour Party. The ideal of political democracy upon which the Labour Party is founded is as much opposed to the political subjection of one class or sex as it is to the economic exploitation and subordination of any class or either sex. Democracy's philosophy is equalitarian, and the democratic party which we have set out to establish does not differentiate, therefore, between men and women in the distribution either of responsibilities or privileges.

The revised constitution of the Labour Party is under discussion at the annual conference at Nottingham this week. It contemplates the creation of a national people's party resting securely, as hitherto, upon the working-class movement organised both for industrial and political purposes, but offering to individual men and women in every Parliamentary constituency throughout the country an opportunity to become members through the local party organisations. These local organisations are the central feature of the revised constitution, and the principle of individual membership is the most important practical change involved in the scheme of reorganisation. It enables any man or woman who works either by hand or brain to enrich the community, and who depends directly upon his or her own exertions for the means of livelihood, to join the party upon payment of a minimum annual subscription and an implicit avowal of loyalty to the party's constitution. The Labour Party, of course, remains what it has always been—the party of the workers; but we have broadened the definition of the term "Labour" so as to include the people of all classes and both sexes who are engaged in productive work and do not live parasitically upon the labour of other people.

Consonant with our interpretation of the equalitarian ideal, we do not accord to women any position of privilege in the party. The revised constitution does, however, ensure them an adequate share of representation in the counsels of the party; and special arrangements have been made to provide for the distinctive women's view being expressed, both locally and nationally, on every question of public importance. Every local labour party will be managed by a general committee composed of representatives of the constituent societies, of representatives of the individual men's section, and of representatives of the individual women members, on the basis of one representative for every 100 members, elected annually by the several sections—which may also hold separate meetings as occasion may require.

In the election of delegates to the annual party conference, the local labour parties have power to choose either men or women resident or having a place of business in the constituency they represent; and if the number of affiliated and individual women in the local organisation exceeds 500, one delegate to the conference must be a woman. Similarly with the national executive; the members of this, the administrative authority of the party, will be elected annually by a ballot vote of the conference from three lists of nominations. One list will contain the nominations of the affiliated national societies, which are entitled to eleven seats on the executive; the second list will be that of the local organisations, each of which may nominate one candidate—either a man or a woman—from among its members, for the five seats allotted to them; and the third list will contain the nominations for the four seats allotted to women. For these four seats women must be elected, each affiliated organisation having power to nominate one woman candidate, who need not be a member of the organisation which nominates her.

In addition to the carefully considered arrangements by which the women's voice and vote will be given effective expression in the local and national councils of the party, it has also been decided to appoint a woman officer whose special duty will be to foster the growth of the women's power and influence. Occasions may arise when the voice of the organised women ought to make itself heard upon questions of special importance to women generally, and provision is made to this end for the calling of local or national conferences of the women. It will also be possible for the women members of the party to meet for consultation upon party affairs; but, in general, we hope and expect that they will not desire to maintain anything in the nature of a separate sectional point of view, or attempt to perpetuate the sex division which was in some quarters so deplorable a feature of the Suffrage agitation.

The women who belong to the Labour movement have never countenanced the suggestion that the interests of the sexes are opposed, or that the mentality of women is fundamentally different from that of men. The Labour Party has echoed that belief by proclaiming the principle of adult suffrage. We want both men and women to vote as citizens with a common interest in good government, and we think it would be calamitous if men voted merely as trade unionists and women merely as women. The legacy of the prolonged Suffrage agitation may be a sense of sex antagonism which will influence women in their approach to politics. But for our part we have tried, in devising our constitution, to show our belief in sex equality, and our conviction that men and women will find it possible to work together in comradeship for the great social and political causes which mean so much to them, both as workers and as citizens.

Overstaffed Offices.

On January 15th, an announcement appeared in *The Times* to the following effect: "The Government have decided to appoint an independent committee of business men to enquire into the expenditure of the great War Departments in particular, and of all Government Departments generally. . . . One of its first tasks will be to enquire into the staffing of some of the newly created State Departments. . . ."

On Wednesday, *Punch*, in his cartoon "The Whitehall Wonder," embodied pictorially the views of aggravated and impatient taxpayers, of "inside observers," and of others, on the interior of a "newly created State Department"—a cartoon as remarkable for its truth as for its beauty.

More than one of the daily papers has opened its columns for weeks past to the complainings of outraged taxpayers, and some really valuable constructive criticism has been offered, which, it is hoped, the Committee about to be appointed at the instance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer will ponder. The space allotted to me will allow me merely to state the case and to urge on the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE their duty of drawing conclusions, and acting on them.

First and foremost, may I place on record my firm belief that the announcement in *The Times* is incomplete. The Committee to be appointed will, indeed, be an independent Committee, but it will not be composed of business men alone; its *personnel* will include some women.* The framers of these Press paragraphs have acquired a long-standing habit of speaking of committees of men, and the phrase, "business men and women" is foreign to their pens. If there is any doubt on this point, let a question be asked in the House, and the matter placed beyond the region of controversy.

The serious woman-worker engaged in earning her living as a clerk or secretary has nothing to fear but much to gain from such an enquiry as that which is about to be instituted. For the past two and a-half years or more, she has looked on in sorrow and *chagrin* at the jeopardising of her calling by its flooding with superfluous and inefficient workers, many of whom are of such tender age that by rights they ought still to be at school. These superfluous workers have not only called down contempt upon a serious and hard-working profession, but have introduced into our Imperial Civil Service a farcical element which has hitherto been foreign to it—an element cleverly epitomised in *Punch's* cartoon.

The whole business, however, lies too deep for jeers. If we have ever been able to afford to waste our public money, we certainly cannot afford to squander it now, in the fourth year of war. If we have ever been able to afford to waste the energies of our girls and women, we certainly cannot afford to continue to do so at a time when the ranks of the W.A.A.C.s, the WRENS, the V.A.D., the Women's Land Service, the teaching profession, are unfilled, and women are called for in every direction. If ever there will be a time in the history of our nation when competence and habits of application must be the rule and not the exception, it will be in the grim years which will follow the making of Peace. And the most tragic part of this whole business of the overstaffing of Government offices is the evil effect the "make-believe" at serious work is having on the characters of the women employed. Girls have been lured from their homes to sacrifice themselves on the altar of patriotism by the tempting salaries to be earned in Government offices by incompetent, untrained, and inexperienced workers. "X" stated in *The Times* on January 8th: "Though references are taken up, many are the cases where the candidate has been appointed and the unfavourable account subsequently received from the referee has not dislodged her."

Here may I be allowed to digress from my main theme to welcome and applaud the concluding paragraph of "X's" letter, viz.:

"I cannot share the view . . . that low wages is the remedy. If a girl or young woman is worth employing, she is worth a living wage, the more so as she is in many cases getting no training which will serve her in the future, and the consequences of giving her less are fraught with very grave evil. It cannot be too often impressed on the public that the majority even of war-workers have to live on what they earn."

Already I see one great good emerging out of this farcical business. "*If a girl or young woman is worth employing, she is worth a living wage!*" It is greatly to the good that these workers and their employers shall realise, even at enormous cost to the tax-payers, that *they are worth a living wage*. The war has brought us to the cross-roads in the economic history of woman. The wage-earner who is acknowledged to be "worth a living wage," has turned Poverty Corner and entered on the High-road of Respect.

I am still more in agreement with "X" in the statement as to the principal cause of over-staffing—namely, "The absence of any proper system of selection of women clerks in Government offices." It is common knowledge, as "X" states, that "early in the war women clerks were recruited from the friends—efficient or inefficient—of officials." I believe it is a fact that, even after three whole years of war, no proper system of selection of women clerks for Government offices has yet been evolved. Yet several women's organisations—Women's Service, the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, the Association of Head Mistresses, to mention three only—would have been proud to help the over-taxed Government officials in evolving some such system. Surely it is not too much to ask that the Committee which Mr. Bonar Law is to appoint to enquire into the whole matter, which concerns women as well as men, should consist of both men and women! It might well number amongst its members representatives of prominent organisations of business women, and should include one or more of the women in responsible posts in the older branches of the Civil Service, and possibly some woman who has personally supervised the work of a typewriting office of note. A remedy must certainly be speedily found for the present unsatisfactory condition of affairs, both among men and women workers in Government offices; for the accusation of waste of energy and time has been levelled at the heads of workers of both sexes. Whether this remedy will be in the establishment of a Clearing House to which those departments which have accomplished just that piece of work which was their *raison d'être* may return their superfluous employees, or whether it will consist solely of a wise selection, in the first instance, of employees who are conspicuous for their capabilities and energy and the immediate "scrapping" of the "Whitehall Wonders" Chorus Girls, I am not prepared to prophesy. But I am firmly convinced that were the persons in actual, and not merely nominal, command of these overstaffed departments women of character and capacity, instead of men to whom neither adjective nor adverb need at the moment be applied, tittivating and tea-making, and elaborate recreations of a like nature, would be reduced to a minimum, and we should get on more quickly with the war.

RUTH YOUNG,
Joint Founder, Association of
Women Clerks and Secretaries.

*On January 22nd *The Times* announced that: "The Treasury has appointed a Committee, consisting of Sir John Bradbury, K.C.B., Secretary to the Treasury (Chairman); Mr. N. F. Warren Fisher, C.B., Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue; Mr. J. Rostron, Chief Goods Manager to the Great Central Railway; and Mr. C. F. Wood, Banker." No woman!

The New Education Bill.

As explained in our last week's issue, Mr. Fisher's new Education Bill contains amendments to some of the administrative clauses of his original Bill, to meet the objection that these lodged an excessive degree of power in the hands of the Board of Education.

It was contended in many quarters that while the educational clauses of the Bill appeared to leave the provision of school meals, medical and dental treatment, playing-grounds, and so on, to the decision of Local Authorities, the administrative clauses deprived them of their right of veto on this as well as practically all other matters, and made their provision dependent on the decisions of the Board. This raised an opposition so widespread and determined as to threaten to wreck the Bill. Such a centralised authority, which would have been exercised, for the most part, by permanent officials, was felt to be wholly undemocratic, and likely to lead to a cut-and-dried uniformity rather than to the free development along varied lines according to local needs, which has long been the ideal of many enthusiastic workers for educational reform.

On the other hand, it was claimed that, in view of the public indifference that is unfortunately still very general, the Board must be given powers of compulsion over Education Authorities that fail in their duties and refuse to use the powers that have been given to them, and that unless the Board were given such powers, the permissive proposals of the Bill would tend to become a dead letter.

An amendment to Clause IV. of the old Bill is an attempt to reconcile these two conflicting claims. Clause IV. now reads as follows:—

"(1) The Board of Education may approve any scheme (which term shall include an interim provisional or amending scheme) submitted to them under this Act by a local education authority, and thereupon it shall be the duty of the local education authority to give effect to the scheme.

"(2) If the Board of Education are of opinion that a scheme does not make adequate provision in respect of all or any of the purposes to which the scheme relates, and the Board are unable to agree with the authority as to what amendments should be made in the scheme, they shall offer to hold a conference with the representatives of the authority and, if requested by the authority, shall hold a public enquiry in the matter.

"(3) If, after such conference or public enquiry, the Board of Education disapprove a scheme, they shall notify the authority, and, if within one month thereafter an agreement is not reached, they shall lay before Parliament the report of the public enquiry (if any), together with a report stating their reasons for such disapproval and any action which they intend to take in consequence thereof by way of withholding or reducing any grants payable to the authority."

This amendment has, we understand, been accepted by a number of Local Authorities who were opposed to the clause in its original form, but there is a considerable volume of opinion in favour of more drastic changes in the Bill as a whole, on the ground that, though the standard of education which it lays down is an improvement on the present standard, it is still far too low.

It will be remembered that the Bill abolishes all child labour under the age of fourteen, and provides for compulsory attendance at continuation schools for 320 hours each year for young people between the ages of fourteen and eighteen. A resolution put forward this week at the Labour Party Conference in the name of nineteen societies suggests the following amendments, with a view to making compulsory some of the permissive clauses of the Bill and strengthening others :—

"(*a*) That the establishment of a sufficient number of Nursery Schools be made compulsory on all Local Education Authorities, and that these be open to all children whose parents wish them to attend;

"(*b*) That the supply of adequate medical and dental treatment should be compulsory on Local Education Authorities for all scholars up to the age of 18.

"(*c*) That the size of classes in all schools should be immediately reduced to 40, and ultimately to 30 pupils;

"(*d*) That the employment of children for profit and wages outside school hours during the compulsory full-time school period be prohibited;

"(*e*) That the age of compulsory attendance should be raised to 15, without exemption within a fixed period after the appointed day. That powers be given to the Local Education Authorities to raise the age for exemption to 16 forthwith, and that maintenance allowances be provided where necessary;

"(*f*) That compulsory part-time education of not less than 20 hours per week, including time spent in organised games and school meals, be provided free for all young persons not receiving full-time education. That the hours of labour for all young persons, under the age of 18, be limited to a maximum of 25 per week, and that workshop schools shall not be recognised as places of continuation education."

Other changes in the Bill have been made to meet the apprehensions of religious bodies.

London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Preparations for the "Elsie Inglis" Field Hospital are going on well, and the Unit hopes to rejoin the Serbian Division in February. Dr. Annette Benson is C.M.O. of the Unit, Dr. Chesney and Dr. Ward are accompanying her as surgeons, and Miss Gwynne as Administrator. The rest of the Hospital Staff consists of twenty in all, including a Sanitary Inspector, Sisters, Cooks, and Orderlies. The Hospital is planned on mobile lines, and the equipment made as light as possible.

The Transport Column which accompanies the Hospital consists of eight ambulances, eleven lorries, a petrol tank, and two touring-cars, and is capable of transporting the whole Unit, with its equipment, when necessity arises. Miss Geraldine Hedges is Transport Officer, and has a staff of thirty-three, including drivers, mechanics, cooks, interpreter, &c. A proportion of the Staffs of the Hospital and Transport were with Dr. Inglis and the Serbian Division on the Russo-Roumanian Front last year. A full list of *personnel* will be published later.

Contributions for this Unit should be sent to the Viscountess Cowdray or the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. All cheques to be crossed "London County & Westminster Bank."

Some weeks ago, in an account of Miss Burke's work in America, it was stated that she raised $450,000 at a meeting for the Scottish Women's Hospitals. This meeting was held on behalf of the American Red Cross, and the money went to that fund, Miss Burke receiving a generous grant from the Red Cross for the Scottish Women's Hospitals' funds, in return for her services as speaker for them.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN AUSTRIA.

According to a report from Vienna, which appeared in *The Daily News* of January 22nd, the introduction of Women's Suffrage was among the promises made by the Austrian Government to the Labour delegation received by the Premier on Monday.

The Division in the House of Lords on Tuesday, January 15th, on Lord Halifax's Amendment for submitting the clauses of the Representation of the People Bill entitling women to vote as Parliamentary Electors to a referendum of women registered as Local Government electors :—

IN FAVOUR OF THE REFERENDUM.

Argyll, D.
Northumberland, D.
Cholmondeley, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Salisbury, M.
Amherst, E.
Bathurst, E.
Cottenham, E.
Eldon, E.
Halsbury, E.
Ilchester, E.
Jersey, E.
Lindsay, E.
Loreburn, E.
Morton, E.
Plymouth, E.
Scarbrough, E.
Shrewsbury, E.
Strange, E. (*D. Atholl.*)
Wicklow, E.
Bryce, V.
Chaplin, V.
Colville of Culross, V.
Falkland, V.
Halifax, V. [*Teller.*]
Iveagh, V.
Knollys, V.
Mersey, V.
Annesley, L.
Balfour, L. [*Teller.*]
Barrymore, L.
Beresford of Metemmeh, L.
Carnock, L.
Charnwood, L.
Cheylesmore, L.
Clifford of Chudleigh, L.
Colchester, L.
De Mauley, L.
Dinevor, L.
Faringdon, L.
Gainford, L.
Gisborough, L.
Glenconner, L.
Grenfell, L.
Hylton, L.
Inchcape, L.
Kenmare, L.
(*E. Kenmare.*)
Kenyon, L.
Lamington, L.
Northbourne, L.
Parker of Waddington, L.
Plunket, L.
Robson, L.
Roundway, L.
Saltersford, L.
(*E. Courtown.*)
Saltoun, L.
Savile, L.
Sudeley, L.
Swaythling, L.
Sydenham, L.
Weardale, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)

AGAINST THE REFERENDUM.

Canterbury, L. Abp.
Wigan, L. (*E. Crawford.*)
(*L. Privy Seal.*)
Marlborough, D.
Sutherland, D.
Camden, M.
Crewe, M.
Lincolnshire, M.
Ancaster, E.
Beauchamp, E.
Cairns, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Grey, E. [*Teller.*]
Hardwicke, E.
Harrowby, E.
Howe, E.
Lichfield, E.
Lindsey, E.
Lonsdale, E.
Lucan, E.
Lytton, E.
Mar and Kellie, E.
Minto, E.
Morley, E.
Reading, E.
Russell, E.
Selborne, E.
Verulam, E.
Sandhurst, V.
(*L. Chamberlain.*)
Canterbury, V.
Churchill, V.
Cowdray, V.
Devonport, V.
Falmouth, V.
Gladstone, V.
Haldane, V.
Harcourt, V.
Hardinge, V.
Knutsford, V.
Milner, V.
Templedown, V.
Bangor, L. Bp.
Lincoln, L. Bp.
Alredale, L.
Anslow, L.
Barnard, L.
Basing, L.
Blyth, L.
Boston, L.
Buckmaster, L.
Burnham, L. [*Teller.*]
Carmichael, L.
Chaworth, L. (*E. Meath.*)
Colebrooke, L.
Colwyn, L.
Courtney of Penwith, L.
Crawshaw, L.
Denman, L.
Digby, L.
Faber, L.
Farrer, L.
Forbes, L.
Harris, L.
Hothfield, L.
Islington, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Knaresborough, L.
Leith of Fyvie, L.
Monckton, L.
(*V. Galway.*)
Montcagle, L. (*M. Sligo.*)
Muir Mackenzie, L.
Newton, L.
Parmoor, L.
Ponsonby, L.
(*E. Bessborough.*)
Pontypridd, L.
Ranfurly, L.
(*E. Ranfurly.*)
Ranksborough, L.
Rayleigh, L.
Rhondda, L.
Ritchie of Dundee, L.
Rowallan, L.
St. Davids, L.
Sandys, L.
Somerleyton, L.
Southwark, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
(*L. Sheffield.*)
Stuart of Wortley, L.
Suffield, L.
Tenterden, L.
Willoughby de Broke, L.
Wolverton, L.

Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE may find it interesting to compare this division list with that on January 10th, on the amendment for the total rejection of Women's Suffrage.

They will observe that fifty-four peers who voted for Women's Suffrage against the total rejection amendment did not vote on the referendum amendment. In the majority of cases this was doubtless owing to the fact that they had been called away from the House for other pressing work. Only six peers who had voted against the total rejection of Women's Suffrage voted for the referendum: they were the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Scarbrough, Lord Colchester, Lord Hylton, Lord Lamington, and Lord Parker of Waddington. Two peers who had voted for the total rejection of Women's Suffrage voted against the referendum. Many others did not vote.

MADAME CURIE and the STORY OF RADIUM

By MARION CUNNINGHAM. Foreword by Lady Muir Mackenzie. Price 1/- (With Portrait.)

ST. CATHERINE'S PRESS.

Lady Constance Lytton writes, "I was thrilled by it."

Ladies' Field :— "Mrs. Cunningham presents us with a most sympathetic picture that will go down to posterity of this great scientist's life. Mrs. Cunningham is an enthusiast, a champion of Women's Cause."

MOTOR AMBULANCE DRIVING

Individual Tuition.

The only School giving instruction on a

COAL-GAS DRIVEN AMBULANCE

Course of Ten Lessons 5 guineas.

The Hon. GABRIELLE BORTHWICK'S WORKSHOPS

8, Brick Street, Piccadilly, W.1. Tel.: 5740 Mayfair

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

THE NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

Head Office:—
39, KING STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Funds nearly £3,000,000 — *Founded* 1830

LIFE ASSURANCE FOR WOMEN.

Recognising the increasing importance of LIFE ASSURANCE FOR WOMEN, this Society has issued a leaflet explaining the methods by which a woman can make provision for her later years, or, in case of early death, for those who may be dependent upon her. A copy of the leaflet and any other information required will be forwarded on application.

THIS SOCIETY BEING A MUTUAL ONE ALL THE PROFITS BELONG TO THE MEMBERS.

(Fill Up, Cut Out, and Forward)

To the Actuary & Manager,
National Mutual Life Assurance Society,
39, King Street, Cheapside, London, E.C. 2.

Please forward me a copy of leaflet "Life Assurance for Women," and quote rates applicable to age.....next birthday.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

IMPORTANT TO RED CROSS WORKERS

We hold a large Stock of MATERIALS necessary for the Making of Roller, Triangular, Many-tailed and other

BANDAGES.

White Bandage Cloth, 36 in. wide
White Flannelette, 36 in. wide
Grey Bandage Cloth, 40 in. wide
White Open Wove Cloth, 36 in. wide
Grey Calico 31, 36 and 40 in. wide
White Flannel, 26 and 28 in. wide
Domette, 27 in. wide

Samples and Prices forwarded per return post.
Special Reduced Prices for whole pieces.

Hospitals & General Contracts Co., Ltd.,
19 to 21 & 25 to 35, MORTIMER ST., LONDON, W.
(Nearly opposite Middlesex Hospital).
Telephone: MUSEUM 3140 & 3141.
Telegrams: CONTRACTING, LONDON.

SECRETARIAL TRAINING

Special Six Months' Course for Educated women which enables them to take excellent posts.

Shorthand, Typewriting in all its branches, Book-keeping, and Correspondence.

All teaching of an eminently practical and effective nature, calculated to be of real use.

Longer or shorter courses can be arranged.

References to parents of past pupils.

Apply to MISS MILDRED RANSOM,
195-197, EDGWARE RD., LONDON, W.2
Telephone No.: PAD. 6302.

THE COMMON CAUSE.

Evelyn House, 62, Oxford St., W. 1. — Price 1d. — Tel. Address "Homosum, Westcent."
Telephone: Museum 2702. — Press Tels.: Office Address.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
BRITISH ISLES, 6s. 6d.....ABROAD, 8s. 8d. PER ANNUM.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS *to be addressed to The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, and all* ADVERTISEMENTS *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representatives, S. R. Le Mare and Miss Frances L. Fuller (West End).*

Women and the Parties.

Suffragists are finding it hard to realise that the object for which they have been toiling for years is now so nearly won. Not the whole object, indeed, for our claim to the Suffrage on the same terms as men is not granted by the Representation of the People Bill, but a portion of it—votes for six million women!

The Referendum Amendment in the House of Lords was the last obstacle we had to surmount, and nothing short of a political convulsion can now prevent the passing into law of a measure which will surely have a claim to compete with the measure of 1832 for the title of "the Great Reform Bill."

Everybody is beginning to ask what the women will do with their votes, and it is to be hoped that every woman over thirty is asking herself what she individually intends to do with hers. She will not very long be left to think it over by herself. Already the organisers of parties that exist, or that would like to exist, are casting eager eyes upon the new voters; already every reformer is beginning to wonder how far the women's vote can be expected to further the cause which he or she has at heart.

So far as the regular parties are concerned, it is possible that their claims may be regarded by the new voters with a certain amount of distrust. The party machine has been almost the worst obstacle that women have had to surmount on their way to enfranchisement, and it is likely that many of those who have taken an active part in the struggle will continue to regard it with invincible distrust. This feeling may indeed be mitigated by the fact that in the years immediately preceding the war, one party did make the Cause of Women's Suffrage its own. The same party, moreover, has made the first public appeal for the support of women voters, and is at this moment reorganising its constitution in such a way as to give women their place in it. The Labour Conference now meeting at Nottingham, has no more fundamental question to decide than the part of women in its Councils. We publish to-day an article by Mr. Arthur Henderson, a friend whose support of Women's Suffrage has never failed in good or in evil times, and whose words will be read by members of the N.U.W.S.S. with interest and respect, whether they agree with him about other political objects or not.

But the Labour Party has never yet been in power. Whatever it may be in the future, it has never up till now been a party in quite the same sense as the older ones. It has stood outside the party machine, almost as the Suffrage organisations have stood outside it (though with the inestimable advantage of Parliamentary representation); the fact that it has made Women's Suffrage one of its objects will indeed be remembered with gratitude by those who have struggled for enfranchisement, but will hardly avail to soften their hearts towards the party system against which they fought.

Of course, this only applies to very few women; the ones who have taken an active share in the battles of the last ten years. It seems possible, however, that many women will, to some extent, share the feeling, though for different reasons. Those who have had most to do with getting up meetings for working women, bear witness to their eager desire to hear both sides in political and social questions. It is a feeling which is widely spread among women of all classes—and long may it be before it dies! No enlightened politician will be able to disregard it, and it is possible that it will prevent the new voters from ever fitting into the old party machine. The same attitude of mind may perhaps be strong enough to prevent the formation of any real woman's party. If this is so, we shall see in the future not the old parties with one more added to them, but a new political world, with different groupings and greater freedom of mind. But some

groupings will, of course, be necessary, and though we all desire passionately that the new voters should hear both sides of every question, we each of us want them to make up their minds in what we respectively think the right way. We each of us want to make up our own minds (some of us have done so already on a good many political questions), and then to unite with the people who agree with us to work for the things that we believe to be most important. In doing this, there seems to be no doubt that many of those who have hitherto worked only for Suffrage will find themselves in parties, and in different parties. For us, as for other political organisations, things will no longer be as they were. In the changed condition of the world, it will be more difficult for people to devote their lives to one political object, and one only, as many members of the N.U.W.S.S. have done in the past. There must be new groupings, and it is greatly to be hoped they will be based mainly on ideas, and not on class or sex.

But there is one idea which it is the business of Suffragists to uphold, and for which the N.U.W.S.S. must continue to exist, and that is the idea of equal opportunities for women and men. The enfranchisement of women is not a matter of the vote alone; and it is a question which the changes of the time have only made more urgent. The position of women in the industrial world is precarious; their position in the State is only half recognised; their position in the home is most imperfect. Until these defects are remedied, and until we have a world in which there are no sex barriers, and in which every individual is allowed to do the work for which he or she is best fitted, and to develope every capacity to the full, the purpose of Suffragists will not be fulfilled. In whatever other groupings they may find themselves for other objects, for this one it is still necessary that they should hold together. It needs for its achievement not a Women's Party, but a strong feminist organisation, and for the sake of this it is certain that whatever else happens in the political world, the N.U.W.S.S. must continue to exist.

Poor Law Relief — A Plea for the Widow.

BY A POOR LAW OFFICIAL.*

As a woman officer of some years' standing under the Poor Law, I should like to contribute to the discussion which Lady Selborne has opened in THE COMMON CAUSE. A good deal of attention has naturally been called to the subject by the President of the Local Government Board's recent statement to a deputation that the Guardians were in the "melting-pot."

I heartily agree with Lady Selborne that there is no reason whatever for doing away with the office of men and women as Guardians, but rather that they should, with the assistance of public opinion, put their house in better order. To quote Lady Selborne again, in many instances the Poor Law, as administered, is both illogical, incomplete, and inadequate in its forms; and especially does this apply to relief administered to widows and women with dependent children, which affords such great opportunities for magnificent work. Of this I will write later.

But instead of condemning the Poor Law, and casting it aside entirely, why should it not be made an ideal system by instituting better administration—better policies—and making it wholly constructive in its application? In a well-managed Union, the Institutions, such as Children's Homes, Workhouses, and Infirmaries, are, in many respects, ideal as far as institutions can be; but I have yet to find a Union that can boast of an ideal out-relief system, and it is in this sphere I have laboured long and sadly. There would be little wrong with the Poor Law, I think, if Guardians would first of all make the administration of out-relief their chief and fundamental duty, and interpret the Relief Regulation Order of 1911 in its broadest possible form. For it seems to me that this department is the very foundation of their work, and here there is ample facility for preserving and building-up of human nature under normal and natural conditions. I will only speak of the case of widows. It should be made easier for a widow to obtain relief than is now the case—for the present method is both harassing and cumbersome, and often deters a woman from applying for assistance until the last penny has gone, and the last available article has been pawned, short of wholly breaking up the home. Another deplorable fact is that, when a woman has received a fair amount of insurance money after the death of her husband, she is told, on making application for relief, that she must live upon that until it has been exhausted, and then apply again. This surely does not encourage thrift. Would it not be far better to advise the woman to spend the money on clothing for herself and children, and in renewing her home, which, in many cases, has often been very much depleted during the husband's illness? Then the assistance granted should be adequate. Everyone is of the same opinion; but the standard of adequacy is scarcely ever reached when dealing with this section of the community. I shall probably be told that this is a matter of opinion—quite so—and I know opinions differ very widely; but relief, to be adequate, should surely be sufficient to cover the provision for not only food, but clothing (including boots, an enormous item in a family), bed-clothing, coal, light, to say nothing of the hundred and one things necessary in order to keep a house going, such as articles for repairing clothing, and utensils for cleaning and cooking. It has often been my lot to hear, when I have been inspecting a woman's home: "Before my husband was taken ill I had everything for my use, but during his illness I had to pawn many things, and others wore out, and I've not been able to replace them; now he's gone there's no chance." Why, I ask, cannot the woman be granted such an amount as will enable her to provide the essentials for her home, and so create a better atmosphere in which to bring up her children? I say emphatically that it should be our duty to make every effort to place the woman and her family on a respectable and comfortable level, and to encourage that love of home life which, in many instances, seems to be diminishing. We cannot expect children to grow up self-respecting when they are devoid of suitable day and night clothing, sleeping arrangements, and proper appliances for washing, &c. Also, how can they be taught decent behaviour at meals without suitable articles used on such occasions with which to eat? Often the teaching they receive at school is thrown away because they cannot put what they have been taught into practice in their homes. Given adequate relief and wise and kindly supervision, wonders can be worked in the homes of such cases; and I have proved by experience that when a woman is relieved of the worry and anxiety of having to earn the living for herself and children, she rarely fails to appreciate the assistance given, and the children benefit by her whole-time care and attention.

Another important point is that all such cases should be dealt with and supervised wholly by women; for no Relieving Officer, however kind, can enter into the many difficulties which beset a woman engaged in the arduous and strenuous duty of caring for a home and children; nor is he able to give the assistance needed. Unfortunately, many of the widows in the Union to which I belong are found to be ignorant of even the most elementary rudiments of sewing, cookery, hygiene, &c., and it is here that a woman supervisor is able to give practical demonstration in the widow's own home, teaching how to make the best of the materials available. In these circumstances, it seems to me a pity that two officers—a man and a woman—should, as happens in many Unions, be employed to deal with the same case; for surely this work is better suited to a woman officer. It is, also, unseemly for a man to visit the sleeping apartment of a woman, which the Relieving Officer does in the course of his investigations. It is unfair and unnecessary to subject a widow to such intrusion, and in many cases it is justly resented. Where two such officers are employed in this capacity, it is often a case of "too many cooks spoil the broth."

Would that the children of the widows could be placed on the same level as the boarded-out children dealt with by the Guardians. The Local Government Board have lately given consent to an increased payment of 7s. 6d. weekly in respect to the maintenance of each boarded-out child. I cannot understand why a widow should be expected to keep her child on less. Both have to be fed, clothed, and lodged, and it seems to me that widows are expected to work miracles in respect to the feeding, clothing, and lodging of their children, for it is rarely they have anything approaching the sum named above on which to keep them, while the boarded-out child, living in a comfortable home, in good surroundings, with foster-parents, is provided with clothing and medical and dental attendance, in addition to the maintenance allowance.

Medical attention is certainly provided for the widow and her children; but this, again, should be more easily obtained. The practice is that, before a Poor Law Doctor can be consulted, the widow has to make application to the Relieving Officer for a medical order. This often necessitates a long walk to the Relieving Officer; and if the surgery is not near or at the office, it is often too late for the woman to see the doctor. Thus another journey has to be made, or, worse still, the visit postponed.

*Our contributor does not feel free to publish her name, but our readers will be interested to know that she is an active worker of long standing, who has had close experience of the matters about which she writes.

POLICIES FOR BUSINESS WOMEN. British Equitable Assn. Co., 1-3, Queen St. Place, E.C.

To my mind, all this needs alteration, and I am sure it is only necessary for Guardians to realise the hardships these methods entail, for them to acknowledge the need for improvement. Then the out-relief would be of real help, instead of being, as I have so often heard it described, just the means of an intolerable existence.

There is also the problem of the children ready for work. This again is a worrying time for the mother. True, she is sometimes assisted in the matter of placing her boy or girl in some occupation; but then comes the problem of suitable clothes. Extra clothing is always required for the little worker. If a girl is to enter service, many articles are needed to equip her suitably for her new work and home. If the child is a boy, strong boots, overalls, aprons, and often, too, a new overcoat are required and badly needed, for while at home, the overcoat which had been too small, exceedingly shabby, and threadbare, would still suffice, it is no longer suitable for the boy who has possibly to journey some distance to work and associate with others better placed than himself. Rarely is an outfit given to these children by an Out-Relief Committee; but had the boy or girl been cared for in the Homes or boarded out, he or she would have been given new clothing suited for the position to be taken up.

Although great strides have been made in the matter of administration of out-relief since 1909, there is still, in my opinion, great need for improvement. I am in entire sympathy with Judge Neil's Mothers' Pension Scheme, but I am convinced that Poor Law Guardians could establish even a better scheme, and do as well or even better for the widow if, coupled with extended powers, they would be willing to give greater consideration to the essential details of the requirements of the widow and children seeking their assistance.

THE PRESS AND THE TRIUMPH OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Almost the entire Press devoted a good deal of space last week to the triumph of Women's Suffrage in the House of Lords. With few exceptions comment has been favourable, and in many cases enthusiastic. We have, unfortunately, only space to give a few examples :—

Speaking of the debate on Women's Suffrage in the House of Lords on January 10th *The Daily Chronicle* says: "The Debate . . . did not proceed on party lines . . . but no one can fail to see that the general cleavage was between the attitude of mind which is open to progress and the attitude which recoils from it.

The Daily Mail calls the voting of the Lords "a wise decision" and mocks at the "old dreams," "old arguments," "old fears" of the Anti-Suffrage Lords. "What is it that these old gentlemen are afraid of?" *The Daily Mail* enquires, "and where have they been living, what have been their thoughts during the last three years?" If there is one thing the war has brought about it is a change in the national feeling towards this question, a change that amounts almost to a conviction that the State will be the better for the active participation of women in its public life.

The Daily Telegraph says: "The House of Lords has accepted Women's Suffrage, and an end has at last been reached of what Lord Lytton described as the bitter disappointments which its advocates have endured."

The Scotsman, after a tribute to the patriotism and steadfast courage which British women have shown during the war says that the women who have led the suffrage movement have a special obligation. "They are capable organisers and controversialists; having won the vote for their sex they should see to it that a propaganda of sound, profitable and informed opinion is now carried on from house to house, particularly in those closely populated districts where the working-class women stand most in need of counsel and assistance."

The Newcastle Daily Journal thinks that women are likely to prove "the great stabilisers in politics rather than the great upsetters . . . they are essentially builders. The era of the greatest building by human hands is fast approaching. There may well be more building of the things that make men than of the things that men make."

The Eastern Daily Press regards the defeat of the Anti-Suffrage Amendment not as a victory for the women of England but as a call to the performance of a duty which the nation needs from them. "In the work of reconstruction that lies before us we cannot as a nation afford to be without the direct help of the women of England in our national decisions."

The Yorkshire Evening News says: "The day after the war is over the work of reconstruction must begin and we look forward with great expectation to the valuable work women may do in the rebuilding of our shattered society."

The Western Daily Press devotes a whole column to "The triumph of the Women" and points out that the main tasks before the next Parliament will be domestic, concerning the many aspects of reconstruction affecting the homes, the comfort, the education and the welfare of the people. The mere fact that women have votes will, the writer considers, make candidates consider the wisdom of consulting their feelings on many questions of domestic legislation.

The Blackpool Times calls women's enfranchisement "an enormous step in the direction of the attainment of the ideal of true democracy." "The vote in the hands of six million women is," it says, "an enormous power, capable of bringing about tremendous changes."

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.
Hon. Secretaries: MISS VIOLET EUSTACE. MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary). MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary (pro. tem.): MISS GLADYS DAVIDSON.
Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, West Cent., London.

Women Suffrage Societies' Joint Celebration.

The N.U.W.S.S., with the co-operation of other Women Suffrage Societies, have decided to hold a Joint Celebration to welcome the extension of the franchise to women at the Queen's Hall on Thursday, February 21st, at 8 o'clock.

Tickets, £1 1s., 10s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. Application for tickets to be made to Ticket Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., Room 7, 62, Oxford Street.

Further details will be announced next week.

In response to a written message of congratulation to Mrs. Henry Fawcett upon the passing of the Women's Franchise Clause in the Representation of the People Bill, signed by all the members of the office staff at Evelyn House, the latter were invited to meet Mrs. Fawcett in the Committee Room to receive her thanks in person.

Our honoured leader was greeted with affectionate acclamations, and though the proceedings were of a brief and quite informal character, the little gathering was a very pleasant one. In reply to the message of congratulation, Mrs. Fawcett spoke of the great source of strength this newly passed measure would be to women all over the world, and she expressed her sincere gratitude for the loyal assistance and valuable co-operation rendered for so many years by the staff of the N.U.W.S.S. for the splendid cause of Women's Freedom.

Miss Cooke, replying as a senior member of the staff, in a few sincere, heartfelt words, expressed the privilege felt by all members of the staff to work for so grand a cause and for such an inspiring and well-beloved leader.

Messages of Congratulation.

The Norwegian Minister called upon Mrs. Fawcett, to bring her officially the greetings and congratulations of the Norwegian National Council of Women.

From Finland came the following greeting from eight women members of Parliament :—

"We women members of Parliament, rejoicing that your long and heroic struggle for Suffrage has been crowned by victory, send heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for future co-operation of women for justice and peace."

The senders are Evelina Alakulju, Annie Furuhjelm, Tekla Hultin, Augusta Laine, Tilda Loethman, Berta Pykaelae, Elli Tavasttaehti, and Ida Yrjaekoskinen.

An Inspiring Report.

The Annual Report of the London Society for Women's Suffrage which we now have before us is an impressive record of work. It was presented to the annual meeting of the Society on December 14th, and has just been published.

The effort of the Society during the year has been manifold. The political work of the spring and summer months was carried out with the accustomed energy and thoroughness.

"Memorials, deputations, and interviews were organised, and in the course of this work remarkable and encouraging changes of opinion were brought to light, generous acknowledgments of altered views being received from associations and individuals and many new friends welcomed into the Society."

The extent of the labour involved may be guessed from the fact that the Society has no less than seventy-four members in its area. Of these, 48 voted in favour of the Suffrage Clause in the Representation of the People Bill and 7 against, while 19 were absent from the division.

"The Society had cause for gratification in the list of supporters as well as in that of absentees."

Of the Women's Service work,* which is regarded with

* An article on Women's Service appeared in our issue of September 7th, and since then numerous articles on the new occupations for women, about which particulars can be obtained at the Bureau, have been published in our columns. Those who wish for further information should call at 58, Victoria Street between 10 and 4, or write to the Secretary.

such keen interest by so many people, both within and without the N.U.W.S.S., the report says :—

"The Women's Service Bureau, the Society's special contribution to the needs of the time, has developed during the year in almost too remarkable a manner. The volume and importance of the daily work now accomplished and the magnitude of the opportunity that opens before it threatens to overwhelm the financial resources of the Society. On all sides, both officially and unofficially, Government departments and large enterprises, industrial and others, seek for help and guidance from the Bureau. Not only are individual cases referred there to us, but problems of policy and administration, schemes for the formation of new groups of women workers or for the training of others are brought to the Bureau for consideration. The Women's Employment Committee, in dealing with work of this nature, has continued to bear in mind the fundamental principle upon which the Society is based—namely, the necessity for equality of status and opportunity for men and women, and in acting so as to further this principle both in the detail of individual cases and the larger questions of policy presented to them, they have undoubtedly been able to affect the position of many thousands of women workers. . . The number of individual applicants received every day at the Bureau averages sixty, leaving out of account the special rushes of work which frequently occur. Over forty-thousand women have been personally interviewed in the last three years. To every one of these women the ideals underlying the Women's Movement are brought home in a helpful and practical way. Women of every sort and kind, coming from every variety of home, and with all possible varieties of ignorance and prejudice, are brought into contact with the ideal of full service to the community and are taught with reference to their own circumstances, the elementary principles of economic life. Women are constantly and successfully urged to resist the temptation afforded by the times of abandoning work they know for work they hear of; young girls are given every opportunity of choosing and preparing for the career for which they are individually fitted, and the principles of fair wages and thorough work are invariably put before them. To many women now working, the idea of equal wages for men and women and the danger of undercutting men's labour are new. To many of them the possibility of co-operation with other workers, and of their loyalty to each other is unknown; and the Women's Service Bureau patiently explaining these things day by day, has sent out into the chaos of the present labour market thousands of women who are alive to the problem they are creating and who are attempting, each in her own surroundings, to face and remove what is wrong. For such work as this no statistics are possible."

The Report goes on to give particulars of the history of the training department, and the munitions department, and of the oxy-acetylene welding school, during the year, and says :—

"The whole question of the employment of women grows more acute and more urgent as the war continues. The change in public opinion on this subject has undergone no alteration, and it is evident that women are consolidating their position as efficient workers. Nothing in the whole situation is so encouraging as the change of attitude of the women themselves, and in the reconstruction of the future it is beyond question that their place must be that of equal citizens in the State, with full opportunities for service and responsibility. Towards this end the war work of the Society is daily and deliberately tending."

Unfortunately, the report shows that this valuable work is limited and hampered by the lack of financial resources, and by the fact that those who are carrying it on constantly have to divert their energies to money-raising efforts, and are burdened with anxiety about ways and means. Generous help has been given, sometimes from quite unexpected quarters. At one moment of grave anxiety £200 was suddenly sent by an unknown friend in America; but as the work grows, the effort of supporting it becomes more and more strenuous.

A third field of endeavour is described in the interesting account given by the report of the year's work of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Unfortunately, space makes it impossible for us even to summarise this here, and we can do no more than refer to the portion of it which dwells on Doctor Elsie Inglis's special relation to the Society, and its share in her work.

It gives us pleasure to quote the concluding paragraph of the report, which is even more appropriate now, in the light of our assured victory, than it was at the time it was written. It speaks of the fifty years of life on which the Society can look back, and says :—

"From the early beginnings of the pioneer movement, through days of bitter controversy, up to this first instalment of victory, the Society has pursued a steady course. Based upon principles of democracy, inspired by a single aim, and undisturbed by party politics, it has continued to grow in strength, and if any should ask by what guidance this progress has been led, from the heart of every member would come the answer, 'It is the spirit of Mrs. Fawcett.' Far-seeing leader of the Women's Movement in Great Britain, President of our great Union of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies, trusted and beloved from one end of the country to the other, Mrs. Fawcett is to the London Society something more as well. Her public life and its own started together in the year 1866, through many vicissitudes they worked for forty-six years in close comradeship, and although in 1912 the pressure of her work for the whole Union brought about her resignation from the London Society's Executive Committee, her constant interest and generous help are its support to this hour. Last year, on her seventieth birthday, the Society, with many others, laid its tribute at her feet, rejoicing that the hour was drawing near that would bring to her country the fruits of her statesmanship, her courage, and her constancy."

Such work as is recorded in this report is, we think, worthy of the leadership of Mrs. Fawcett. One could give it no higher praise.

A TON OF COAL FOR 2/6

Scientist's Wonderful Discovery which Enables Everyone to save Large Sums in Weekly Housekeeping.

Remarkable Offer to Enable Every Householder to Test the Splendid Economic Advantages of "Seldonite," which, at a cost of 2/6 only, Makes One Ton of Coal Go as Far as Two.

The introduction of the wonderful chemical compound "Seldonite," which doubles the "life" of coal, or, in other words, cuts in half the coal bill, is resulting in something like a sensation.

At this time, when every penny of housekeeping counts, "Seldonite" proves a veritable blessing, for warmth is almost as important as food.

£10 SAVED DURING COAL FIRE SEASON.

Ladies are now finding that they are able to have in kitchen or drawing-room the brightest, cosiest, and hottest fires they wish, and yet make one scuttleful of coal, treated with "Seldonite," go as far as two ordinary ones.

A saving such as this is, of course, greatly appreciated, all the more so because servants are pleased when "Seldonite" is used, for fires burn clearer, need less attention, and there is practically no waste, dust, or soot.

No matter how small or large your coal bill, you can effect a wonderful saving by using "Seldonite," and if you use, say, two tons of coals a month you can save at least £10 during the coal fire season.

In order to give the public a most advantageous opportunity of testing "Seldonite" in their own homes the proprietors have decided for a short while to send post free the full-size 4s. box (sufficient to treat one ton of coal, coke, or slack), with full directions, to all readers for only 2s. 6d. Orders and remittances, however, must be sent within the next few days. Five boxes will be forwarded (whilst this offer lasts) for only 10s., or 11 boxes for 20s.

A MOST REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

Already "Seldonite" has found thousands of users who appreciate its cleanly and splendidly economical advantages, and testify to their appreciation by constant repeat orders.

Among those who have been supplied with "Seldonite" are:

Susan, Countess of Southesk.
Victoria, Countess of Yarborough.
Lucy, Countess of Egmont.
Viscountess Templeton.
Lady George Loftus.
Lady George Hamilton.
Lady Hayes.
Lady J. M. Westland.
Ada, Lady Bromley.
Earl of Loudoun.
Brigadier-Gen. Marshal.
Bishop of Newcastle.
Dowager Lady Queensberry.
Lady Watkins.
Sir Wm. C. Dunbar.
Viscount Elibank.
Lady Stanford.
General Lock.
Lady Lubbock.
Sir N. Kennedy.
General Carey.
Lady Strathallan.
Lady Dilke.
Sir H. Richell.
Rt. Rev. Bishop Neligan.
Surgeon-Gen. Hamilton.
Hon. Mrs. Trefusis.
General Beeching.
Lord Howard of Glossop.
Sir J. Pender, Bt.
Lady Maclean.
Dowager Lady Glanusk.
General Robinson.
Sir George Wolseley.
Hon. Cecil Parker.
Dowager Lady Ashbourne.
Lady Hutton.
Sir Bertram Dawson.
Lord Sinclair.
Hon. Mrs. Warburton.
Hon. Mrs. Tremayne.
Lady Strachie.
Lord Sydenham.
Sir H. F. Norbury, K.C.B.
Lady Renshaw.
Sir Wm. Clark.
Sir Beethom Whitehead.
Louisa, Lady Walker.
Sir C. Mackworth.
Lady Warwick.
Sir H. H. Wombwell, Bart.
Dowager Countess De La Warr.
Sir J. Roper Parkington.
Lady Bridport.
Hon. Mrs. Henniker.
Lord Francis Hope.
Lady John Hay.
Rear-Admiral Madden.
Dowager Countess of Donoughmore.
The Marquis of Sarzana.
Lady Johnson.
Lady Graham.
Lady Franklin.
Lady Dawson.
Count Wingersky.
General Warren.
Sir C. Shaw.
Sir Squire Bancroft.
General Stuart.
Lady Hewitt.
Hon. H. Stanhope.
Lady Duff.
Sir Robt. Thompson.
Lady Napier of Magdala.
Lady Swan.
His Hon. Judge Bray.
Vice-Admiral Rolleston.
Sir A. Legard, Bart.
Lady Campbell.
Sir H. Vansittart-Neale.
Sir Frederick Wilson.
Hon. Mrs. W. Herbert.
Sir Chas. Blane.
General Campbell.

"Seldonite" is easily used, and is alike suitable for factory, hospitals, schools, clubs, kitchen, drawing-room, or dainty flat. It does not smell; there are no fumes It is perfectly healthy. Indeed, no one knows that it is in use except that the fire burns consistently, warmly, cosily, and brightly without any attention.

To take advantage of the special offer made above, readers should send remittance of 2s. 6d. for the full-size 4s. box (sufficient for one ton of Coal, Coke, or Slack), or 10s. for five boxes, or 20s. for 11 boxes, addressing their letters to

Seldonite Laboratories, Ltd.,
(Dept. 56) Vine Street, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C. 1

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE

"The best provision for the future is the present."
George Macdonald.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
(Funds £16,000,000)

Write to the WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT of the SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION for an explanation as to how provision can best be secured.

HEAD OFFICE:
6, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

LONDON OFFICES:
3, Lombard Street, E.C.3
17, Pall Mall, S.W.1

BURBERRYS' SALE

1917 Weatherproofs, Top-Coats, Gowns, until End of February

HELPS ECONOMY.

Sale Goods cannot be sent on Approval as this entails immense labour for Staff, Post Office, and Railways, which, in view of the Government appeal, Burberrys desire to avoid.

BURBERRY GOWNS, Blue and Black Serges. Many styles.
Usual price, 14 Gns. **SALE PRICE, 7 Gns.**

TIELOCKEN BURBERRYS, fastening with strap and buckle.
Usual price, 5 and 6 Gns. **SALE PRICE, 73/6**

BELTED BURBERRYS, sleeves and shoulders lined Hayette.
Usual price, 5 Gns. **SALE PRICE, 52/6**

RACE-BURBERRYS in Urbitor Coatings, airylight and warm.
Usual price, 5 Gns. **SALE PRICE, 52/6**

THE BURBERRY WEATHERPROOF, lined proofed material.
Usual price, 4 Gns. **SALE PRICE, 63/-**

Many other Bargains in SALE CATALOGUE sent Post Free.

BURBERRYS Haymarket LONDON S.W.1

GEO. WEBB'S DYE WORKS.

THE FINEST QUALITY.

CLEANING & DYEING

of COSTUMES, HOUSE FURNISHINGS, etc.

Only the highest skilled labour employed, and absolutely the best colours and chemicals used.

VANS COLLECT and DELIVER TWICE WEEKLY THROUGHOUT the WEST END.

Recommendations from all parts of the Country

ORDERS BY POST OR TELEPHONE COMMAND IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

254, BRIXTON HILL, S.W.2.

Tel. 1852 Brixton.

THE THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	175	5	7
Miss Ethel M. Aldis ...		10	0
Miss Montgomery	1	0	0
Miss K. F. Jones		10	0
Mrs. Crawford	2	0	0
Miss R. Fleming	1	0	0
Miss Margaret Harwood ...	2	0	0
Miss D. Marshall	1	1	0
Miss Gray Allen	5	0	0
Miss Maud Place		10	0
"H."		6	0
Per Mrs. Arthur Matterson.			
Natal (3rd instal.): Mrs. Wallace (10s.), Mrs. Drysdale (2s. 6d.)		12	6
Miss M. L. Wood	5	0	0
Miss M. G. Taylor	1	0	0
Miss Rowland	1	0	0
Mrs. Claude G. Montefiore ...	5	0	0
Miss Grundy (Thankoffering for Mrs. Fawcett's work) ...	5	0	0
	£206	15	1

Further donations will be welcomed by the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Correspondence.

[Letters for publication should be received not later than Monday.]

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

MADAM,—I have been greatly interested in reading Miss C. E. Clark's article in THE COMMON CAUSE for January 11th, on the place of women in the Church. Her remarks at the beginning as to the high position of the Abbesses in early times and her regret at its decay later, made me wonder whether she and many others of your readers, including probably even some Catholic ones, are aware of the great honour still paid to Abbesses by the Church, although their secular glories have departed.

At the end of last month there took place the Enthronement of the Benedictine Abbess of East Bergholt, and I trust I may be pardoned for repeating some of the most striking details of what is variously described in the accounts as the "Consecration," the "Blessing," and the "Ordination" Service. This magnificent and impressive function was carried out according to the full rite of the Roman Pontifical, and, to quote the words of one of the papers describing it, "Like all great liturgical functions, such as the consecration of bishops, the ordination of priests, or the crowning of kings, the 'blessing' of a Benedictine Abbess is incorporated in a solemn Pontifical Mass." We are told further that after the Gradual had been sung, the Abbess-Elect was conducted by her ladies-in-waiting to the bishop and there swore due subjection to the Ordinary. A special Preface followed, in the course of which the Ordination of the Elect was effected by the imposition of hands, and after various Collects, Jurisdiction was communicated to her by delivering to her a copy of the Holy Rule with suitable injunctions as to its faithful observance. Before the last blessing the function culminated in the Enthronement, the bishop conducting the Lady Abbess to her abbatial seat and placing in her hands the Crozier—the symbol of her authority to "rule the monastery and all its inmates, and whatever pertains to its government within and without, in things temporal and things spiritual."

In the great work which women seem destined to carry out for the revival of religion, I believe that, as far as the Catholic Church is concerned, it is to the Religious Orders that we should look to take a leading part. An immense amount of purely religious work is already in their hands, and although the seclusion required of most of them by their Rule might prevent those particular Orders from taking a share in the more active missionary work which our times seem to require, yet we have perfect confidence in our Church's power to adapt her methods to all requirements and to bring forth out of her treasures "things new and old." Already suggestions have been made for a revival, for men and women, of the ancient Order of Catechists, with its great possibilities. In a recent article in the *Catholic Suffragist*, the Rev. Vincent McNab, after discussing this proposal, of which he highly approves, goes on to write enthusiastically of the way religion has been kept alive in many distant countries by the labours of women alone. He adds that even here in England the religious instruction of children is dominantly in the hands of women, and that these women are in all probability fulfilling more ecclesiastical and apostolic functions than the primitive "Lectors," who were in minor Orders.

In France, at the present time, owing to the scarcity of priests, we read of parishes where the women and a few old men carry on the regular liturgical services.

ISABEL WILLIS.
Hon. Press Secretary, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

[Owing to pressure on our space, much interesting correspondence has been held over till next week.]

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

[Owing to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over this week's list of donations.]

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, for much new work is being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED.

The Equipment Committee have completely exhausted their stock of the following articles: Woollen and flannelette pyjamas and day shirts; woollen vests and pants; socks and bed-socks. Several hundred are required for immediate dispatch to the American Unit in Macedonia. Large or small donations of those goods forwarded to the Equipment Secretary, Scottish Women's Hospitals, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, will be gratefully acknowledged.

Items of Interest.

WOMEN ON THE LAND.

Women are taking a prominent part in forming County Fruit and Vegetable Collecting Societies for the disposal of surplus fruit and vegetables. A conference convened by the Warwickshire Women's Agricultural Committee has just decided to form a Society for that county.

One of the latest occupations taken up by women in connection with agriculture is Farriery and Smithing. A farmer at Hereford having sent in a request for a woman to do this work—shoeing horses and making and repairing farm implements—the Women's Organisation proposes to fill the place.

All the women who have completed a course of training in Forestry have now been placed as Forewomen by the Woods and Forests Department.

The women students at Harper Adams College (Salop) who have been training for motor tractor work, have been most successful; and the engineer, who was prejudiced against women labour in the first instance, is now most enthusiastic over their work. Two of them have done so well that they have been kept on as Assistant Instructresses.

A girl of 17 was awarded three stripes for long service. She ploughed unaided twenty-five acres of her father's farm.

A demonstration and competitive meeting "principally for women" representative of the six North Wales counties is to take place on Smithson's farm at Rhuddlan on February 7th. The classes will include horse and tractor ploughing, milking, hedging, trimming, pruning, trenching, thatching, harnessing, etc.

We understand that the various Civil Service Organisations are about to appoint a Select Committee of their own to take evidence and submit a report for the guidance of the Service as a whole with regard to questions of payment and office conditions. This is intended to forestall the action of the proposed Treasury Committee, which is apparently to be appointed by the Treasury itself and will report without making a full enquiry. There is a widespread feeling throughout the service that the Treasury officials are not the proper people to draw up a report to serve as a basis of reforms. Indeed there is a growing impatience with Treasury control, and the idea is gaining ground that the entire business of managing the Civil Service should be placed in the hands of a Board, the chairman of which shall be a Minister responsible to Parliament.

One of the questions to be investigated by the Civil Service Committee is that of the application of the principle of "equal pay for equal work" to all branches of the Service. It is proposed to make a careful comparison between the work done by men and women, both as regards its quality and amount, with a view to judging whether it is possible for both sexes to sit for the same examinations and generally work under the same conditions, or whether it is advisable to have separate examinations and a different scale of work and pay.

At a meeting held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on January 17th, a council was formed for the Defence of Marriage, the principal speakers being Lord Parmoor and Mr. W. Runciman, M.P. The Duke of Northumberland, who presided, read a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury, urging the vital importance of forming such a council to counteract the attacks now being made against the sanctity of marriage. Among those who attended the Conference were the Earl of Selborne, Earl Beauchamp, Lord Lilford, the Hon. E. Hubbard, Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, Mrs. Randall Davidson, and Mrs. Creighton.

A club for women from the Overseas Dominions engaged in war work has been opened at Norfolk House, St. James's Square, which has been kindly lent by the Duchess of Norfolk. It has already over 1,500 members, and its luncheon and tea rooms are a great boon to those who are working in Government offices, many of them have come from overseas with their soldier relatives.

We regret to announce the death of the well-known botanist, Miss Ethel Sargant, F.L.S. Miss Sargant was the first woman to preside over a section of the British Association, and was also the first woman elected to the Linnean Society in London. She was at the time of her death President of the Federation of University Women.

CHILD WELFARE.

On Thursday, January 10th, an interesting meeting was held at Salisbury House under the auspices of the Child Welfare Council of the Social Welfare Association, to consider the recommendations of a committee that had been appointed to enquire into the existing provision for unmarried mothers and their children. The Lady Bertha Dawkins presided. The Council agreed to the following as the main requirements:—

Waiting and Maternity Homes for all poor mothers.

Allowances for mothers whose homes, characters and surroundings make it desirable for them to continue to live in their own homes.

Residential accommodation for mothers and babies, such accommodation to include Day Nurseries.

Special Homes for mothers suffering from such defects or diseases as should preclude them keeping their children with them.

The reform of the law with regard to the amount to be paid to the mother of an illegitimate child under an Affiliation Order.

The encouragement of expectant mothers to take proceedings before the birth of their child.

The granting of an allowance to the mother before and during her confinement.

The legitimation of the children of unmarried mothers by the subsequent marriage of the mother and father.

The institution of legal adoption.

A General Conference of Societies and others interested will take place on February 14th to consider the matter further.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

STEVENAGE.—On Saturday, January 5th, a lantern lecture on Joan of Arc was given in Stevenage by our Hon. Secretary, Miss Plowden, in aid of the two memorials for Mrs. Harley now being got up, one by the Shrewsbury Society and the other by the West Midland Federation. The room was well filled by an appreciative audience, the beautiful slides adding greatly to the interest of the lecture. After paying expenses the sum of £4 was sent to each of the memorial funds. The chairman, in introducing the lecturer, gave a brief account of Mrs. Harley's work and the tragic circumstances of her death.

CARDIFF.—A Variety Tea was held on December 8th. The political situation and the prospects of Women's Suffrage in the Representation of the People Bill were explained by members of the committee, and a musical and dramatic programme was much enjoyed. There were a few stalls for the sale of suffrage literature, second-hand books, knitted and other needlework, and garden produce. An addition of about £50 to the Society's funds resulted.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

JANUARY 29.

East St. Pancras—Women's Liberal and Labour Association, 28, High Street, Camden Town—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Fisher, M.A.—Subject: (1) Women's New Opportunities; (2) Food Distribution and How to Help. 3.15 p.m

LONDON UNITS S.W.H. (N.U.W.S.S.)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11th.—Blackheath Suffrage Society—Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield. (Further particulars later.)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12th.—Mrs. Percy Bigland "At Home," 29, Tite Street, Chelsea—Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield—Wartime Tea, 4.30; Meeting, 5 p.m.—Cards may obtained from Miss Curwen, S.W.H., 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Coming Events.

The Pioneer Players will give the second performance of their present season at the Prince's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue (by kind permission of Mr. C. B. Cochran), on Sunday, February 10th, at 5 p.m., when they will present "The Girl and the Puppet," an English version of "La Femme et le Pantin," by Pierre Louys and Pierre Frondaie, a play which provoked a sharp controversy when first produced at the Theatre Antoine, Paris, in 1909. It was said beforehand that it was impossible to put Concha Perez, the heroine of Louys's cruel and subtly analytical story on the stage, but it was afterwards confessed that M. Frondaie had succeeded. The strange character, which was played at the Antoine by Mlle. Regine Badet, will be played in the Pioneers' production by Miss Teddie Gerard. Mr. Allen Jeayes plays Don Mateo; Miss Ethel Warwick, Bianca; and among others in the long cast are Miss Joan Pereira, Mrs. Saba Raleigh, Miss Stella Rho, Mr. Stephen Ewart, and M. Jean Vara.

HELP FOR ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

An urgent appeal is being made for help for Armenian refugees, whose sufferings this winter have been terrible, almost beyond belief. Homeless and destitute, the women and children seek shelter and food, while those of the men who have not been massacred are in great numbers fighting against the Turks. Many who escape famine perish by pestilence.

In accordance with the desire of the Archbishop of Canterbury, it is hoped that either on Sunday, February 3rd, or on another Sunday a little later, Intercessions may be made in the churches on behalf of the Armenian and Assyrian peoples, in their dire extremity, for those brought to degradation and slavery, or left without protection and support in Turkey, for those who are refugees in the Russian Caucasus, in Mesopotamia, and elsewhere; and also that collections may be taken, wherever possible, for the relief of those survivors of Turkish barbarity. Help is earnestly asked for either (1) through the collections at the various churches; or (2) by direct gifts to our Honorary Treasurer, Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory, Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, Office, 96, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

ALL BRITISH.
VALKASA
THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.
An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.
1s. 4d., 4s., and 7s. of all Chemists.
James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd.
MANCHESTER.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 5s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 5s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

DISPLAYED ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

One insertion:	£	s.	d.	13 or more insertions:	£	s.	d.
Whole Page -	10	0	0	Whole Page -	9	0	0
Half Page -	5	0	0	Half Page -	4	10	0
Quarter Page	2	10	0	Quarter Page	2	5	0
Per Inch (wide col.)	10	0		One-Eighth p.	1	2	6
Narrow column:—				Per Inch (wide col.)	9	0	
Per Column	3	7	6	,, (narrow col.)	6	0	
,, Inch -		6	6				

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

NUMBER OF WORDS.	ONCE.		THREE TIMES.		SIX TIMES.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
20	1	6	4	0	7	6
30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

LECTURES.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly, W. Saturday afternoon Discussion, Teas, 4 o'clock. January 26th: "Individualism versus Socialism"; Speaker, Miss Rees. February 2nd: "The Swine Gods," by Miriam Block. February 9th: "Poland's Life as a Nation," by W. Majdewicz (S.U.O.U. President Polish Circle in London). February 16th: "Women as Masons," by Mrs. St. John.

EDUCATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)
REGENT'S PARK, N.W. 1.
Principal: Miss M. J. TUKE, M.A.
FOR RESIDENT and DAY STUDENTS.
DEGREE COURSES IN ARTS AND SCIENCE
SECONDARY TRAINING DEPARTMENT.
SCIENTIFIC INSTRUCTION IN HYGIENE.
TRAINING IN SOCIAL WORK.
For particulars of Scholarships and Bursaries, and for the College Calendar, apply to THE PRINCIPAL.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

(Continued on page 536)

Continued from page 535]

THE SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN

South Side, Clapham Common, S.W. 4. (80 Beds.)
A General Hospital for Women and Children officered by Medical Women.

PROBATIONERS are received at the age of 19 years or in exceptional circumstances at the age of 18. Certificate given on satisfactory completion of two years' course. Short periods of training can be arranged for intending Health Visitors.

For full particulars of Training, Salary, etc., apply to the Matron.

POSITIONS VACANT.

SECRETARY (woman) required for Suffrage Society in Glasgow; with knowledge and experience of Secretarial and Committee work. Interest in women's questions essential.—Applications, stating qualifications and salary expected, in writing to Hon. Secretary, Suffrage Society, 202, Hope-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, superior experienced House-help for family of two. Help for coal, &c., morning. Plain cooking; modern, convenient house, easily worked. Wages £30.—Apply by letter, Mrs. Thorne, Highlands, Belmont, Surrey.

WANTED.—LADIES AS REPRESENTATIVES to a well-known old-established Insurance Company. An entirely new opening for women workers; whole or part time. Excellent prospects.—For particulars write Miss Rochford, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

POSITION WANTED.

LADY wants light out-door work; experienced poultry and garden; might also help war-workers in house.—N. M., 25, Denmark-av., Wimbledon.

GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training. Vegetable, fruit, and flower culture. Healthy outdoor life. Individual consideration. Long or short courses; from 60 gns. per annum. Spring term begins Jan. 18th, 1918.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

GOLD, SILVER, AND BRASS can be cleaned in half the ordinary time by the Ayah Polishing Cloth. This cloth is used by jewellers in restoring lustre to the finest jewellery. No soiling of hands. 1s. 3d., post free, from The Pioneer Manufacturing Co., 23, Paternoster-sq., London, E.C.

WAKE UP WOMEN!

FOR full particulars of the latest labour-saving devices, and demonstration in own home, write to "Utility Expert," 154, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

EXPERT TYPEWRITING.—Any quantity in given time; Translations—all languages; Secretarial Training School. Price lists, &c., on application.—Miss NEAL, Walter House, 422, Strand, W.C.

MARY McLACHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walk Manchester.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.
Enquiries solicited. R. CROMBLEHOLME, *General Manager*

PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Campden House, 3, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 6049.

LANGUAGES.

FRENCH taught as in France, by lady with many years' experience in Paris. Classes arranged to suit students.—Write for full particulars to Mme. Bolton, c/o COMMON CAUSE Office.

MOTORING.

WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING
259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON.
Telephone . . 946 WESTERN.
Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club.
Individual Tuition given to Each Pupil.
Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training. Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

MEDICAL, &c.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street,
MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
FREDK. G. BOUCHER, Asst. Dental Surgeon. Estd. 36 Yrs.
Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man.
Nurse in Attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.
Send Post Card for Pamphlet. N.B.—No show case at door.
CONSULTATION FREE. Telephone: North 3795.

GOWNS, BLOUSES, LINGERIE, Etc.

THE
BEST CORSET BODICE
for WOMEN WORKERS
NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, Etc.
Adequate support WITHOUT bones.
Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements.
Corset Netting - 9/6 } *Post free*
Coutil - - 8/6 }
Out size 3/0 extra.
Send Bust, Waist, Hips, and D to E.
Cash with order.
BEATRICE STEMPEL,
17, UPLANDS ROAD
HORNSEY, LONDON, N.

LACE cleaned, mended, transferred. Many testimonials.—Beatrice, "C.C." Office. (No postcards.)

PERFECT FITTING Corsets made to order from 15s. 6d. Also accurately copied to customers' own patterns.—Emilie, 17, Burlington-arcade, Piccadilly, W.

LAUNDRY.

BUSH HILL PARK LAUNDRY, 19-20, Second-avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, laces, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT.—MESSRS. BROWNING, Dental Manufacturers, 63, Oxford-street, London, W. 1. THE ORIGINAL FIRM who do not advertise misleading prices. Full value by return or offer made. Call or post. Established 100 years.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH (OLD) BOUGHT
Up to 7s. per tooth pinned on vulcanite; 12s. on silver 15s. on gold; £2 on platinum. Also highest value given for Old Gold and Silver Jewellery. Any condition (broken or otherwise). Cash or offer by return. If offer not accepted, parcel returned post free. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mention "Common Cause."
S. CANN & CO., 69a, Market St., Manchester.
Established 1850.

BLEACHED PLAIN COTTON SHEETS, ready hemmed, good reliable quality, 70 by 100 inches, two pairs 22s. 9d.; 2 by 3 yards, two pairs 24s. 9d. Bargain List free.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

FALSE TEETH BOUGHT.—Cash or offer by return. Before selling, make sure of their value by writing for free booklet, which explains very clearly the value of any artificial teeth.—E. Lewis, 29, London-st., Southport, Lancs. (Kindly mention COMMON CAUSE.)

Real HARRIS, LEWIS, and SHETLAND HOMESPUNS
Direct from the Makers. Special light weights for Ladies' wear—all shades. *Patterns and Prices on Application.*
S. A. NEWALL & SONS, Stornoway, Scotland.
State shade desired and whether for Gent's or Ladies' wear

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-st., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY?
The large London Market enables
ROBINSON Bros. of
5, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's), W. & 127, Fenchurch St., E.C.
To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVERPLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, Museum 2036.
ALL PARCELS receive offer or cash, by return post.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings. Specially good prices given.—Helene, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough.

TO LET.

HALF of well furnished Flat; two bedrooms, two sitting-rooms; 3½ gns.; or one bed, one sitting, en suite, 2 gns. Geyser bath, telephone, attendance. Cooking can be arranged. One minute Baker-st. Station.—Dr. Justina Wilson, 16, York Place, W. 1.

MEMBER can thoroughly recommend, from personal experience, furnished rooms, Bushey, Herts; 5 minutes station; scrupulously clean; geyser; moderate.—Apply Box 7,458, COMMON CAUSE Office.

VERY comfortable two-roomed Flat, specially well-furnished; gas-cooker, gas-fire in each room; beautiful river view. Lady only; 21s. weekly. View mornings only.—L. W., 125, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea.

WANTED.—Two women friends, or mother and daughter, to share expenses of airy flat with widow and daughter. References exchanged. Interview by appointment with Mrs. Ward, 195, Selhurst-rd., South Norwood, S.E. 25. 15s. weekly.

WANTED.

WANTED by two ladies, out all day, two furnished or unfurnished rooms, board and slight attendance, use of bath, gas fire, near Victoria or South Kensington.—Apply "M. G.," Box 6,445, COMMON CAUSE Office, 62, Oxford-street.

FOR REST AND HOLIDAYS.

LOVELY TUNBRIDGE WELLS, "England's Beauty Spot." ROYAL MOUNT EPHRAIM HOTEL; facing common, full south; excellent cuisine; winter gardens; elevation 500 ft. above sea level; telephone 75; telegrams "Comfort."—For Brochure apply resident proprietress, L. Meadmore.

WHERE TO LIVE.

BROOKLYN PRIVATE HOTEL.—Earl's-court-square, S.W. 5 (Warwick-rd. corner), finest centre all parts; 12 minutes' Piccadilly; quiet, separate tables; write or call for tariff; strictly inclusive terms; unequalled for comfort and attention; own private garage free. B. and B., 5s. Tel.: Western 344.

HOSTEL for Lady Workers, Students, and Visitors; terms moderate, by day or week; convenient for all parts.—Miss Sullivan, 59, Albany-st., Regent's Park (Portland-rd. Station).

PRIVATE HOTEL FOR LADIES. Very quiet and refined.—13, St. George's-sq., Westminster. Bedroom, breakfast, bath, and attendance, from 4s. 6d.—Write, or wire, Miss Davies.

PRIVATE HOSTEL for Lady War-Workers. Partial board, from 27s. 6d.—Miss Hunt-Grubbe, 9, Cecil-court, Hollywood-rd., S.W. 10.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

I enclose Donation / Subscription of £ : s. d. to the Funds of the N.U.W.S.S.

Name _____
(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

Address _____

All Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria," and made payable to: The Hon. Treasurer, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the NATIONAL PRESS AGENCY LTD., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., and Published at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. *London:* George Vickers. *Manchester:* John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. *Newcastle-on-Tyne:* W. H. Smith & Son. *Edinburgh and Glasgow:* J. Menzies & Co. *Dublin and Belfast:* Eason & Son.